Simona Halep's explosive movement was key to final victory against Serena Williams I never saw coming

- **Simona Halep defeated Serena Williams in just 56 minutes at Wimbledon**
- **The 27-year-old Romanian won 6-2, 6-2 during her impressive performance**
- **Williams was denied a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title against Halep**

By CHRIS EVERT FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

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It's the second time in this tournament Australia have lost both their openers for fewer than 10 runs.

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It was a brilliant display from Simona Halep. She's known as a counter-puncher, a defence player but she just took away Serena's game.

She had an answer for Serena's power, she figured out a way to return her serve. I think her movement was her biggest weapon in the match.

I didn't see it coming and I don't think many other people did either. That was the worst loss for Serena, score wise, in a Grand Slam final.

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Simona Halep holds up the Wimbledon trophy after defeating Serena Williams in straight sets

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Williams was unable to deal with Halep's movement during their 56-minute contest

You sensed Simona was in her own little world out there, she had no holes in her game.

It was remarkable that she closed the match playing that well because very often players kind of wake up and realise 'I'm beating Serena Williams' and Serena then pounces on them.

I've never seen anyone read Serena's serve as well as Simona did. I was thinking to myself, either she's reading it well, anticipating it well or she's studied the patterns. She sees the ball early and she gets off the mark. As she said before the final: 'I don't have Serena's power but I have my legs.'

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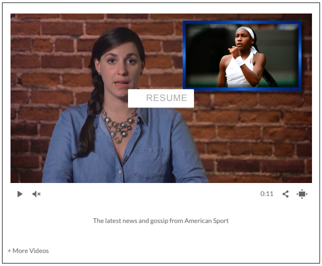

move away
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Good start to the summer for the champions

Season at a glance

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Soon to be unveiled

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She's playing more aggressively — she's 5ft 6in, she's short — but she's playing explosive tennis from the baseline and she's stepping in to the court a lot more. On Saturday everything clicked.

You can't say anything negative about Serena because, for how much tennis she has played this year, reaching the final was pretty impressive.

It was the first match she played here against a top 10 player and the first where she had extended rallies. Her shots that would normally be winners against other players, Simona got them back.

IBM
97 mph
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Halep falls to her knees in celebration of her Wimbledon final victory against Williams

I think Serena could get into better shape physically. She's had limited time to train but maybe now she's healthy she'll play a few more tournaments before the US Open and that matchplay will help.

She could be a different Serena at Flushing Meadows. She's injury-free and that could open the floodgates. She didn't get 24 here but I think she's likely to still get it somewhere else.

Serena can put stuff out of her mind, she can compartmentalise very well. I haven't lost faith in the fact that she can win 24 and don't think anyone who knows her can doubt that.

Chrissie Evert is covering the Championships for ESPN and was talking to Matthew

move after telling Leicester: I'm ready to leave now
City are also interested in the England defender

England were the Basil Fawlty of one-day cricket... now they're the gold standard
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Forward is pushing for a move away

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Lampard hopes he stays

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'I was a little bit like a deer in headlights': Serena admits she was powerless to stop the superb Halep in Wimbledon final
Misses out on record

MORE STARS OF SPORT

Ronaldo undergoes medical tests as Juventus star joins up with team-mates ahead of new campaign
Put through his paces on return to training

Van Dijk, Henderson, Alexander-Arnold and Wijnaldum welcomed back by Klopp following Nations League exploits
Liverpool stars back at training for pre-season

'We're all behind you, bring it home!': Flintoff, Anderson and Strauss wish England luck as Morgan's men prepare for World Cup final
Messages of support

The ginger-haired lad from Rush who took on the world...
SPECIAL REPORT on England's captain gunning for glory at the Cricket World Cup

The GOAT? Federer rolls back the years to beat old foe Nadal in four sets and reach his 12th

Wimbledon final
MIKE DICKSON AT WIMBLEDON

'I love you but this is a poor decision': Arsenal legend Wright slams Koscielny for snubbing pre-season tour of United States...
Impassioned plea

Khan cruises to fourth-round KO of Dib to win WBC international title in Jeddah... and keep alive hopes of facing Pacquiao
Rowdy in Saudi!

Look what you're missing, Laurent! Arsenal train without AWOL captain Koscielny in LA as Edu watches on
Keen observer

Tottenham's £65m record-signing Ndombele arrives for first day of pre-season with new club alongside Alli and Sissoko
Back to work

Barcelona FINALLY get £108m Antoine Griezmann deal done as he signs while out on a boat on holiday in Ibiza
'Disgusted' Atletico vow to take them to court

Berbatov shows he's still got it as he demonstrates brilliant first touch to save his daughter from being hit by a stray football
Classy as ever

Grosjean suffers embarrassing crash in the PITLANE as Gasly goes fastest in first practice ahead of the British Grand Prix
Eventful at Silverstone

Arsenal's new captain?! Holding larks about on plane as Gunners jet off to LA for pre-season tour

without stayaway Koscielny
A new skipper?

- **Manchester United reveal new away kit as wantaway Pogba models gold shirt that will set fans back £100**
The strip features an intricate mosaic design

- **Jones watches on as England rugby stars compete in series of gruelling beach events during secret training camp in Newquay**
Team bonding

- **Franks a lot, boss! Chelsea get back to work the day after Lampard's first game in charge as they prepare for St Patrick's friendly**
Drew first match

- **Barcelona sign 16-year-old English striker Barry from West Brom as they see off competition from PSG for talented prospect**
Hot shot

- **On the edge: Bale trains with Real team-mates in Canada as he continues bid to force hi way into Zidane's plans**
He was towards the edge of the squad as they ran

- **Liverpool star Van Dijk makes most of his time off as he enjoys himself at Wimbledon**
Virgil van Dijk is still enjoying some time off after a successful season

- **'Once a Blue always a Blue': Fans notice Real Madrid new boy Hazard has photo of his kids wearing Chelsea shirts on his phone case**
Joined Real Madrid

- **Reunited! Sturridge is pictured back with his beloved Pomeranian but**

the rapper who found it complains he wasn't paid the £30,000 reward
Dog stolen in LA raid

'Let me tell you, he seriously cranks it': Poulter reveals Kane hit 350-YARD drive as they played together in Scottish Open pro-am
Many of many talents

Liverpool fans troll Manchester United at the WACA by flying banner over session with message: '6 X European champions!'
Training in Australia

Firmino, Jesus and Coutinho are joined by Brazil team-mates as they celebrate Copa America success
Premier League stars partied in Rio de Janeiro

Hero ballboy who helped Liverpool score against Barcelona nets first goal for club in U18s pre-season win
Sharp-thinking ballboy is a youth-team player

'Take my money!': Palace fans go wild for new Puma away kit as club release photos of bold new design
Crystal Palace unveiled their 2019-20 away kit

'Thanks for the memories Frank, but it's time to go': Chelsea fans jokingly get #LampardOut trending after draw in Dublin
Drew first match as boss

Cahill puts his £5.4m New Jersey mansion on market, complete with eight bedrooms, infinity pool and indoor football and

basketball courts
Retired earlier this year

Roma sprinkle some (Ziggy) Stardust on their new away kit with David Bowie-like lightning bolt inspired by Roman 'god of the sky' Jupiter
Funky new kit

Heavyweight Whyte to take be a contestant on this year's Celebrity MasterChef...
...and he will be up against former Liverpool defender Neil Ruddock!

Origi signs new long-term deal at Liverpool as reward for his vital contribution in Champions League win
Has worked his way back into Klopp's plans

United new boys Wan-Bissaka and James sing hilarious initiation songs as McTominay helps entertain team-mates Down Under
Stick to the day job

'I'm feeling dizzy': Real new boy Edero almost FAINTS during unveiling as Brazilian struggles in Spanish heat
Also said it was an 'emotional day' for him

Higua-in? Striker returns to Juventus for pre-season medical as fans chant calling for him to stay
He was welcomed back by the supporters

£200,000 per-week Aubameyang adds customised £240,000 Lamborghini Huracan to incredible car collection now worth £2.1MILLION
He's got the drive

Beckham's Inter

Miami given green light to build new £50m ground on Lockhart Stadium site as United legend steps up plans for 2020
Golden touch

- **Neymar spotted for the first time since being branded 'deplorable' by PSG as he opts to stay in Brazil to play beach football**
He is at war with PSG

- **The Beard is here! NBA star Harden enjoys kickabout with Arsenal youngster Nelson at the Emirates during UK trip**
He even nails a special crossbar challenge!

- **Frank's way: Chelsea's Azpilicueta reveals new boss has already began implementing his style in pre-season training**
First friendly in Ireland just around the corner

- **'Things change, don't they?': England prop Marler says he's in a 'different headspace' after reversing retirement decision**
Raring to go in Japan

- **Why Serena lost the plot! £8k fine after smashing her racket into Court 15 turf four times leaving divots**
Episode was even seen by doubles partner Andy

- **Lion judges! England Women take in Wimbledon from the Royal Box on Centre Court after World Cup heroics in France**
Neville and Co attended

- **Happy to be here Gareth? Bale cuts a lonely figure at the back of the group as Real Madrid head off on**

tour
Travelling to Canada first before moving on to USA

Murray practises at Wimbledon before he continues star-studded mixed doubles partnership with Serena
All eyes on Brit again as he pairs up with Williams

'I'll pay anything': Distraught Sturridge offers £30,000 reward after burglars break into his LA home and steal his Pomeranian dog
Striker is devastated

Mayweather's worst-ever defence? Boxing legend floored in charity basketball game as he is confused by opponent's dribbling
Not used to hitting floor

'Close your legs, Odegaard is about': Fans go mad for Real Madrid star after he nutmegs team-mate during first session
On loan at Real Sociedad

Pogba gets his head down for pre-season training as United squad are put through their paces at the WACA
Solskjaer's side trained at Perth's cricket ground

Youri-n! Tielemans signs up for Leicester on permanent deal as they splash out £40m to nab him from Monaco
Despite interest from top Premier League sides

Arsenal target Zaha on form as he strikes for Ivory Coast en route to AFCON quarter-final
Wilfried Zaha

showed no signs of being distracted by transfer speculation

▸ **Alves falls to knees to celebrate after thinking referee blows whistle at end of Copa America final... only to get back up and carry on!**
He thought it was all over

▸ **'I'll admit Copa America you won': Champions League pitch invader Kinsey reveals plans to disrupt final were foiled**
Less luck in Brazil

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Why always him?

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New season, new team

▸ **How do you follow that? Guardiola arrives back at work for first day of City pre-season training as they look to top last season**
Can he conquer Europe?

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Top players enjoying the last of the summer break

▸ **United Down Under: Stars touch down in Perth as Pogba and co begin tour of Australia, Singapore and China after 19-hour flight**
Pre-season underway

Parris reveals she's 'proud to sign for the biggest club in the world' after being unveiled at Lyon
Lioness puts World Cup woe behind her

Dybala thanks Lionel Messi for lending him his lucky red ribbon before Copa America third-place play-off
It pays off as Juventus star scores his first goal

Jesus wept! Man City and Brazil star rages after sending off in Copa America final
Punched the VAR booth, blasted water bottle and then burst into tears

Defoe dedicates goal to Bradley Lowery on second anniversary of his death as Rangers record pre-season win
Gerrard's side beat Oxford 5-0 at Ibrox

Lampard signs autographs for fans in Ireland as new Chelsea boss puts his players through their paces in gruelling pre-season
First match this week

Konta happy on centre stage! Last Brit standing is channelling her inner Jodie Comer ahead of last-16 clash against Kvitova
She's a big Killing Eve fan

PSG star Mbappe joins French President Emmanuel Macron to watch women's World Cup final in Lyon between US and Holland
American won it 2-0

Benitez gets off to perfect start in Chinese Super League as former Newcastle boss

guides Dalian Yifang to routine win over Henan Jianye
Signed £12m-a-year deal

▸ **Real Sociedad unveil Odegaard after signing on season-long loan from Real Madrid...**
As SEVEN other new players are introduced at the Anoeta

▸ **Pogba's on the plane! United wantaway star joins team-mates for flight to Australia**
The squad announcement was delayed due to uncertainty over future

▸ **Fury confirms Wilder rematch for February 22 and vows to 'knock him the f*** out... I haven't been abusing alcohol this time'**
Date in the diary

▸ **Masvidal stuns UFC 239 by delivering a brutal flying knee knockout within FIVE SECONDS**
It even caught the ref off guard!

▸ **Milner leaves fan in disbelief after going to coffee shop with team-mate Lallana**
The pair visited their local Starbucks and left one employee in awe

▸ **'As a teenager I was yards from a bomb that blew up my club. It's a miracle The Open is back!'**
EXCLUSIVE BY OLIVER HOLT

▸ **Murray and Serena make strong start in quest for mixed doubles glory as they pick up straight sets win**
MIKE DICKSON AT WIMBLEDON

▸ **'Wish a bomb would explode on this club': Italian**

Fognini in astonishing on-court rant against Wimbledon

He went on to lose 3-6, 6-, 3-6

Murray crashes out of men's doubles in second round with partner Herbert after losing to Skugor and Mektic at SW19

Beaten 6-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3

Loftus-Cheek signs new £150,000-a-week Chelsea deal as Lampard ushers in new era

'I hope to win a lot more trophies with the team'

Top seed Barty outclasses Brit Dart on Centre Court to cruise into second week

World No 1 wrapped up a 6-1, 6-1 victory in just 52 minutes

'My god, you're so tall': Klopp shocked by new-boy Van den Berg on return to Melwood - but will they hit new heights this season?

Pre-season begins

Pogba works out in Central Park as midfielder stays in shape ahead of potential United exit

Shared videos of himself performing sprints

Lampard takes charge of Chelsea training for the first time since becoming Blues boss

He runs the rule over his squad during a session in Ireland

'I'd like to see him here': De Jong uses unveiling to urge former Ajax team-mate De Ligt to join him at Barcelona

The £75m midfielder presented at Nou Camp

- **'I was sitting in bed with the worst thoughts': Cardiff's Tomlin opens up on mental health torment**
  EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY ADRIAN KAJUMBA

- **'I'm going to get an early night tonight...' 'Are you? Full of s***!':**
  Kyrgios enjoys a hilarious press conference after mixed doubles loss at Wimbledon

- **Wozniacki in Hawk-Eye blast as Dane loses the plot in loss to Zhang at Wimbledon**
  LAURA LAMBERT AT WIMBLEDON: Wozniacki erupted at umpire

- **'Tuanzebe is a magician!': United fans notice youngster signed new three-year deal with the pen lid still on!**
  United fans noticed something rather odd

- **Franks a lot! New Chelsea boss gives fringe players a chance to impress as they jet out for Dublin pre-season trip**
  Lampard joined squad

- **Kane feeds a lizard while Ramos takes in the sun with his wife as football stars enjoy final days of summer break**
  Some players are still on their holidays

- **That's one way to make a point! Mayweather hits back at critics of 'flashy' style... by posing with $2m in cash as he shows off**
  Truly the Money Man

- **Shopping for your new home, Daniel? United new boy James hits the supermarket with his girlfriend as he looks to settle in**

Manchester
A new £17m signing

- **'Holland and Barcelona have always had a special tradition': Dutch midfielder De Jong arrives in Spain for official unveiling**
  £75m move from Ajax

- **PSG confirm signing of Herrera on a free transfer as they use FIFA 2020 to reveal their new signing**
  Will earn £300,000-a-week after leaving United

- **'Why would I apologise?': Kyrgios admits he was aiming to hit Nadal in the chest with the ball during ill-tempered match**
  Aussie out of Wimbledon

- **Neymar consoles Messi after Brazil's Copa America victory over Argentina**
  As Barcelona negotiate PSG star's return to Nou Camp to rejoin Messi

- **Lampard's top 10 Chelsea moments: Goals at Wembley, Barcelona and Bolton**
  Chelsea finally sealed the deal to make Frank Lampard new manager

- **Mourinho says Nadal 'could have been a fantastic footballer' as gets snap with Willis at Wimbledon**
  Enjoyed a day out at Wimbledon

- **Ronaldo delights hundreds of fans with surprise appearance in Singapore ahead of return to Juventus**
  His popularity shows no signs of reducing

- **Buffon's back at Juve! 41-year-old keeper in Turin for medical as he gets set for remarkable return after year at PSG**

Juventus fans got chance to welcome back legend

The humiliating moment Chile striker Vargas fails with lame 'panenka' penalty... with his team already 3-0 down to Peru

Chile were knocked out

Season at a glance

LIVE TABLES FIXTURES SCORES

Premier League

	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	38	72	98
2	Liverpool	38	67	97
3	Chelsea	38	24	72
4	Tottenham Hotspur	38	28	71
5	Arsenal	38	22	70
6	Manchester United	38	11	66
7	Wolverhampton Wanderers	38	1	57
8	Everton	38	8	54
9	Leicester City	38	3	52
10	West Ham United	38	-3	52
11	Watford	38	-7	50
12	Crystal Palace	38	-2	49
13	Newcastle United	38	-6	45
14	Bournemouth	38	-14	45
15	Burnley	38	-23	40
16	Southampton	38	-20	39
17	Brighton and Hove Albion	38	-25	36
18	Cardiff City	38	-35	34
19	Fulham	38	-47	26
20	Huddersfield Town	38	-54	16

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Eoin Morgan's technicolour team can end grey decades of pain... the 2019 Cricket World Cup final is their...

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I never had any doubt this would be England's triumph at the World Cup... if only I could watch them do it!

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